

A
LETTER

SENT FROM
The *DEVISES* in WILTSHIRE,
To
A Friend in SALISBURY.

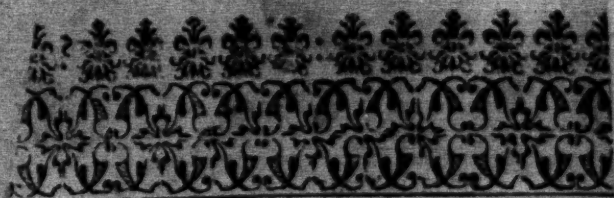
Shewing the condition of the Towne, the affections of the Inhabitants, and the behaviour of
SIR EDWARD BAYNTON whilest he was there.

Written some weekes since, but now printed
upon occasion of a late abuse in SALISBURY, done
by some Parliament plundering Forces, under
the command of *Hungerford* and *Fines*;
who wander about the Country, robbing and spoyling His Majesties
good Subjects.

A true Relation whereof is hereunto annexed, that other
Cities, Townes, and Counties, may endeavour to withstand these and the like Rebels, who aime at nothing more then the ruine and destruction of this
famous and flourishing Kingdome.

Printed for W. Webb. 1643.

11/43



A Letter sent from the *Devises* to a
friend in *Salisbury*, shewing the conditi-
on of the Towne, the affections of the In-
habitants, and the behaviour of Sir
Ed. Baynton whilst he was there.

S I R,



Received your Letter by Master *R. C.* which you seeme to have wrote in such an *agony* of spirit, that truly I should have wondred at such emphaticall expressions, had I not measur'd out your griefe with mine *owne*; for (whether by *sympathy* or *chance*) you seeme so well acquainted with the anguish of my soule, that I read my own thoughts in a truer character of your pen, then I am able to give my selfe. Together with your Letter I received your *Token*, which though sent to me, yet my wife desired me to resigne the thank- ing part to her, because it did her so much honour at her child's christning; which as it was borne a Prisoner, (for what they call a *Garrison*, may by a truer phrase be stil'd a *Gaole*) so 'twas not long e're it obtain'd an enlargement; for the *Epiphany* brought it into the world, and the *Purification* sent it out a- gaine. I will not say my turne is next, but yet I must tell you, that when they have taken away our *livelihoods*, I know not what afterwards will content them, but our *lives*; for Sir *Edward Baynton* hath Lorded it with such an exquisite tyranny, that he hath converted more to the Kings side by *persecu- tion*, then I have beene able to winne either by my *Rhetorick* or my *Reason*; so that many of our Inhabitants whom his cru- elty found rebellious, it hath render'd loyall. 'Tis true indeed, the

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Plain

the Towne hath entertain'd them, but to the best sort I am sure, as they were never invited, so they are not welcome. Nor can you so properly say, that we let them *into* the Towne, as that we were not provided to keepe them *out*. We had given up our *hands* to His Majestie's service, as we have alwaies done our *hearts*, but that we lay as *naked* as that *truth* we side with: Nay, we would yet leave our houses to loose our lives with the King, were we not narrowly observ'd, not onely by a *Janus*, who hath *two* eyes, but by an *Argus*, who is *all* eyes; and did not their Garrison serve as well to keepe us *in* the Towne, as to keepe the King *out* of it. Now, Sir, when the King shall take this Towne, (as I doubt not but he will) because it will be hard to mowe downe the *Tares* without cutting some *Corne*, I could wish that Master *Mayor* (of whose loyalty I shall tell you anon) might give up a Catalogue of such men, who have beene zealously well-affected to the King's cause, lest our *misfortune* be punish't like their *sinne*; and lest we suffer (like the *Storke* in the fable) onely for being in the company of those unlucky *Birds*. I confesse it is better that we should fall in the common confusion of the Towne, then that they should longer be industrious in their owne calamity, by lifting their *hands* against their *head*: Yet 'tis a miserable happinesse which the *Tragedian* so much commends, *Omnia secum consumpta ferre*; and 'tis pittie (though to be dispens't with) that in the hurry and confusion of a conquering siege wee should suffer *by* the King's Forces, who have so long suffer'd *for* them. And what our sufferings are, you may guesse by this; that we are by so much in a poorer condition then those that have *least*, by how much we are more liable to the losse of *all*. Did his proud Knightship amerce us to 19 parts of our estates, we might call the twentieth *ours*: But (alas!) we are become meere Stewards of our owne, and are made accountable for so much more then we were ever worth, That the Reputation wee have with Creditors doth onely purchase this good to us, *To be lesse worth then nothing*. My *blunt* neighbour in the *Briteaux* was so strangely moved at this unhandsome usage, that he was so downe-right as to say in the publike Court, that the *Commis-*

or of Array. if it were so bad as they make it, it was yet farre better then the setting of the *Militia*; for *that* (said he) was pretended to take away but the *tenth* part, whereas *this* if it continue, will not leave us *one*: And being told that Sir *Edward Baynton* gave commission for those Taxes, *If he were ten Bayntons* (answered the Butcher) *he should be chop't as small as hearbes to the pot, before he should play the Tyrant here*. We admired that these words should scape unpunish't by him, (unlesse by a strange good fortune they were hush't up) who had so often belabour'd the most sufficient of our Towne, for no other reason then to try the mettle of his *Cudgell*; Hee made the Officers provide a Locke for the Stocks, and (*Pharisee* like) gave them the first fruits of their owne labours. His most unworthy piece of cruelty was to give a childe that punishment for letting off a *Squib*, which was due to a Souldier for a false *alarme*. But the master-piece of insolency was against the *Maior* of the Towne, a man of that knowne integrity, and of such generall good esteeme in this place, that we had ransom'd his liberty, though with the losse of our owne, had not his charity beene as great as was his innocence. And as Sir *Edward* can finde no fault with His Majestie, but that He is *King of England*; so he could finde none in the *Maior*, but *that he was the Vicegerent of the King*: for though he stood guilty of no other crime then the execution of His Majesties command, by the publike reading His Proclamation, yet this *usurper of Majestie* (for he hath used more Authority then the greatest *Generalissimo* I ever read of) did not onely turne him out of his *Maioralty*, but turn'd him into a *blinde Prison*; where when he had laine two dayes and two nights (without a bed so much as of straw) he was imprison'd the other seven in the Bayliffe's ward: which the good Gentleman suffered with such pleasantnesse and equanimity, that had I not knowne him of a generous disposition, I should have called his *moderation* *foolehardinesse*. At the *Maior's* freedome Sir *Edward* told him, that if he contemned *him*, he contemned the *Parliament*; if the *Parliament*, the *people*: and if you (answer'd the *Maior*) offer injury to me who am the *King's* Deputy, you offer it to the

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the King who is *God's*. At which Sir *Edward* being mov'd, after a pretty many *valiant*, and (as he thought) becomming oathes, (as you know he is not overstor'd with reason) I know not by what hap he made a shift to reply, That if he kept not his tongue in his head, he should not keepe his head on his shoulders: and so lett him. Nor is this rare Tyranny confin'd to the narrow limits of our Towne, but spreads it selfe through the whole Countie, by commanding great summes out of small *Tithings*; with such menaces on their failings, that they shall undergoe as much, as either *cruelty* can *infiict*, or *patience* *suffer*. This, Sir, is such admirable incivility, that I know not whom to name with Sir *Edward Baynton* in *Wiltshire*, but the Lord *Stamford* in *Hereford*; and we finde it possible (by this sad experience) to be a Knight, and yet no Gentleman. I told you when we were going to *Bristoll* what would be the issue of those *fine words*, *Priviledge* and *Liberty*, *Parliament* and *Subject*; and you see by the event that my *seares* were *Oracles*. For whatsoever is pretended, some malecontented persons are growne *sicke* of *Monarchy*; and 'tis my daily prayer, that either they may be suddenly *restored* to *health*, or that they may *die* of their *disease*. Thus, Sir, I have disburden'd my thoughts, perhaps to the burdening of yours, but you must pardon my tedious prolixity, since I cannot tell whether I shall ever have so safe and cunning opportunity of writing to you, as this is: And therefore with my best respects to your selfe and that *good old Gentleman*, (to whom pray remember me as passionately, as if I tooke my last leave.) I rest

Your faithfull friend

and servant,

E. A.



A true Relation of the Passages of
Sir Edward Hungerford, and *Master Fines*,
 with some Parliament Forces, which lately en-
 tred *Sarum* in *Wilts*, with their usage of that
 Citie; as also of the Market-people, be-
 ing then Market-day: Saturday,
February 11th. 1641.

ON Saturday *February 11th* *Sir Edward Hungerford*
 and *Master Fines*, with some 400 Horse, and nigh
 600 Foot, came unexpectedly unto the Citie of
Sarum betwixt twelve and one of the clocke, when
 the Market was at the height, and dispersing themselves so,
 that they entred at all sides of the Towne, they left Forces to
 keepe any of the Countrey carts from issuing out, untill they
 had taken from them such horses and provision as they thought
 fitting, the Countrey people being then better furnish't of
 provision then ordinary, being their last Market before Lent.

They made their pretence of comming to surprize the She-
 riffe, who they said was come from *Oxford* with considerable
 Forces to secure himselfe, and in shew of taking him, their
 Horse immediately made into the Close where his house was;
 which being search't and he not found, they brake open the
 doores of such stables as they deemed Malignant; and taking
 away their horses, rested for that night.

Sunday about one of the clocke their Horse were all in rea-
 dinesse in the Market-place, and as it was conceived some feare
 made them prepare for a sudden departure; but newes being
 brought unto them of the contrary, they incontinently sent se-
 verall

verall Commanders into every street, to search the whole City for such Armes as might be found, twenty Muskets waiting upon every Commander to each private house. Which being done, they likewise took all the Armes and Ammunition out of the Citie Armory, and this was their Sabbath's rest; save onely, that religious Master *Fines* went out about five of the clock on the Sunday with his Troopes, and tooke such horses in the Countrey Villages as he thought fitting, taking three or foure out of a Teeme, to the utter disabling of the poore men of sowing their land for this season.

On the Munday they sent Propositions to the Towne, wherein they demanded a great summe of money, it was rumour'd three thousand pound, or else both Close and Towne must expect the extremity; in conclusion they fell to five hundred, which the Citie being enforce'd unto, they very unwillingly delivered; and *Fines* receiving 200^l for his part, immediately departed; and as it was reported, no longer to stay with his Troopes in that Countrey.

Not long after, betwixt three and foure on the Munday the residue of the money being delivered, Sir *Edward Hungerford* marcht away with his company (as it was believed for the *Devizes*) leaving a rumour behinde him of Sir *William Waller's* comming thither that night with 800 horse, but he was not come when this newes was sent.

The Gentlemen in generall both of the Towne and Close, behaved themselves exceeding stoutly in His Majesties behalfe, telling them, though they were disarmed of their power, they could not disarm them of their desire to doe His Majestie service; and some in particular feared not to say to their faces, even to the very best of them, that their *Janizaries* could not long keepe them safe in that Countrey. And the truth is, though they cast a generall disconsolation upon the whole City, it plainly appeared they themselves were in the greatest feare; some of their choicest intimates confessing that they were like prisoners at the Assizes, hourly expecting the being called to an execution, accounting themselves no better then high-way Theeves.

And

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And this is much, ready to be testified by above two thousand Inhabitants, in and about this Citie of *Sorum*, who are ready to tender their names and persons whensoever His Majesty shall please to demand them.

This we desire may be forthwith printed, that all Counties in this Kingdome may so comply with the King's Majesty, that these Plunderers may be speedily cut off, lest they and wee be utterly ruined by them and their confederates.

FINIS.
